(b) if so, the details of the proposed proejcts;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed by India and Nepal in this regard; and

(d) if so, what are the salient aspsects of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has a proposal to lay a product export pipeline from Raxaul (India) to Amlekhganj (Nepal). Estimated capital cost of approximately 35 kilometers long pipeline will be 33 crore (Phase-I) and additional Rs. 2.3 crore (Phase-II). The throughput will be 0.7 Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA) and 1.1 MMTPA for Phase-I and Phase-II respectively of the pipeline.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Tourists in India

54. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tourists, who visited India during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the year 2003 India has received the largest number of tourists;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of tourists expected to visit India during 2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Foreign tourist arrivals in India from top 15 countries for the last 3 years is given in the Statement. (See below).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Foreign tourist arrivals to India during 2003 has been estimated at about 2.75 Million as compared to about 2.38 Million during 2002, showing a growth of more than 15%. The figure of 2.75 Million estimated for the year 2003, is the highest so far.

(d) Based on the growth of about 24 per cent estimated during the first six months of the year 2004, foreign tourist arrivals to India for the year 2004 is likely to cross the 2003 figure.

Statement

Foreign Tourist Arrivals in India from Top 15 countries during 2001, 2002 and 2003

2001		2002		2003*	
Nationality	Tourist Arrivals	Nationality	Tourist Arrivals	Nationality	Tourist Arrivals
U.K.	405472	U.K.	387846	U.K.	427235
U.S.A.	329147	U.S.A.	348182	U.S.A.	400113
Sri Lanka	112813	Sri Lanka	108008	Canada	106554
France	102434	Canada	93598	Sri lanka	106364
Canada	88600	France	78194	France	96848
Japan	80634	Germany	64891	Japan	76411
Germany	80011	malaysia	63748	Germany	74518
Malaysia	57869	Japan	59709	Malaysia	67440
Australia	52691	Australia	50743	Australia	56083
Singapore	42824	Singapore	44306	Italy	46238
Netherlands	42368	Nepal	43056	Singapore	45739
Italy	41351	Italy	37136	Nepal	41153
Nepal	41135	Netherlands	31669	Netherlands	40047
Israel	28774	Korea (S)	29374	Korea(S)	34945
Korea(S)	27150	Israel	25503	Israel	32083
Others	1004009	Others	918401	Others	1098519
TOTAL:	2537282	Total	2384364	Total	2750290

* Provisional